

Why we do what we do at Straydog: to promote spay/neuter

Dear Friends of Straydog,

First I want to thank all of you who responded to our Holiday Season Wish List postcard mailed out at the end of November. You have boosted our Daily Operating Fund (which is our only fund) to over two weeks ahead of expenses. Successful business people keep telling me that Straydog needs to get 10 to 20 weeks ahead of expenses, but I can't even imagine the security and comfort a cushion like that would bring to us here at Straydog. If we can just make it through the month, every month, I remain optimistic that our 93 outside dogs and 16 hospital trailer dogs will be able to survive, and we'll be able to keep the mission going.

Stopping the killing of innocent dogs and cats will come about through cultural evolution, as human culture finally embraces spay/neuter as the only acceptable way to control population

Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University published a book in 2002 entitled *Human Natures: Genes, Cultures, and the Human Prospect*, in which he talks about how our culture slowly evolves to change the human condition, part of which condition (in my opinion) pertains to our attitude toward and treatment of animals.

I first saw Professor Ehrlich in the late 1960s when he was a guest on a TV talk show promoting his book *The Population Bomb*, in which he forecast the increasing difficulties humanity would face and have to deal with during the coming years due to unsustainable population growth. That book really influenced both Pat and me a lot, and when we began rescuing homeless dogs many years later (after we became a little more financially able to afford to rescue homeless dogs), we observed in the canine and feline worlds that Professor Ehrlich's predictions about the tragedy that would result from unchecked human population growth were already coming true in the dog and cat worlds.

During the first few years of the existence of Straydog (our no-kill dog shelter) Pat and I thought we might be able to be at least somewhat influential in bringing about population control for dogs and cats through spay and neuter. What we didn't realize until a few years later was that this one aspect of cultural evolution wasn't going to show a great deal of change for a long, long time. The progress of all forms of evolution is extremely slow, and we must not let ourselves live in constant frustration and despair just because we can't make big changes happen faster.

We can try to make changes happen faster, and the more of us who are trying, the faster we will make changes happen, which will move us ahead toward achieving sustainable population through spay and neuter. But it's simply not going to be accomplished this year or next year. In 10 years we may be a few small steps ahead, but it may be 20 or 50 or 100 years before we finally achieve sustainable population through spay and neuter--conception control--and stop the senseless killing of innocent pets just because there's no home for them.

In the meantime we must continue trying to achieve small steps: we rescue a dog here and a dog there, we rehabilitate them, and we find them (or provide them with) forever homes. With each dog we save, we move a step closer to achieving a giant step in cultural evolution--conception control taking the place of euthanasia.

Sincerely

Bill Arnold
December 2007

"We cannot do great things on this earth. We can only do small things with great love." - Mother Teresa

Please send a check or call in a credit/debit card donation to:

***Straydog* Inc., P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147 903-479-3497**

or

MORTON SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC 1404 E. Tyler, Athens, Texas 75751 903-675-5708